



Police Department

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Chief of Police

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CHIEF NANNETTE HEGERTY STATEMENT FOLLOWING JUDE VERDICTS

THE VERDICTS IN THE CASE OF THE BEATING OF FRANK JUDE HAVE BEEN DECIDED. THE DECISIONS ARE WHAT THEY ARE. I ASK THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE FOR CALM AND I ASK THAT WE MOVE FORWARD FROM THIS CASE TO A PLACE WHERE THE POLICE AND THE CITIZENS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER.

THIS DEPLORABLE INCIDENT HAS DONE SO MUCH TO DESTROY THE RELATIONSHIPS THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO BUILD WITH THE COMMUNITY AND IT HAS DEMORALIZED MANY OFFICERS. WORSE, IT HAS UNDESERVEDLY TARNISHED THE BADGE OF EVERY OFFICER IN THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

IT BOTH SADDENS AND DISAPPOINTS ME TO SEE SOMEONE WHO HAS WORN THE BADGE OF A MILWAUKEE POLICE OFFICER, ACCUSED OF A CRIME. BUT I MUST ASSURE THE COMMUNITY AGAIN, DESPITE TODAY'S VERDICTS - I WILL NOT TOLERATE MISCONDUCT ON THIS POLICE DEPARTMENT. THAT HAS BEEN MY RECORD AND THAT WILL NOT CHANGE.

NEARLY ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN I HANDED DOWN THE 13 DISCIPLINES IN THIS MATTER - INCLUDING NINE PEOPLE I DISMISSED FROM THIS DEPARTMENT - I URGED THE COMMUNITY TO ATTEND THE OFFICERS' APPEAL HEARINGS BEFORE THE FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION. I ALSO ENCOURAGED THE PUBLIC TO LISTEN TO THE PROCEEDINGS IN CIRCUIT COURT IN THIS MATTER. YOU SAW TWO COURAGEOUS OFFICERS TAKE THE STAND AND TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT THEY SAW ON OCTOBER 24, 2004.

ALL THOSE PROCEEDINGS HAVE NOW CONCLUDED AND NOW THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS POLICE DEPARTMENT MUST HEAL - TOGETHER.

AT THAT TIME, I ALSO SAID I BELIEVED THAT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DIFFICULT TIME, WOULD BE A STRONGER MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I BELIEVE WE ARE WORKING TOWARD THAT END.

WE NOW HAVE MORE STRINGENT HIRING PRACTICES FOR NEW OFFICERS. WE HAVE BROUGHT IN TRAINERS TO TEACH OFFICERS TACTICAL COMMUNICATION - HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM - ONE WHICH TRAINS OFFICERS HOW TO DEAL WITH THE MENTALLY ILL AND OTHER IMPORTANT TRAINING INITIATIVES.

TODAY, I ASK THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THE MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOU WHO WE REALLY ARE.

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